

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please also amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10, and add new claims 11 and 12, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

~~original resting means for resting~~ a transparent plate for supporting an original thereon;

a support means member for supporting an end portion of the original resting means a surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original; and

a movable image reading unit for reading image information of the original, the image reading unit including an image sensor for reading image information of the original and a regulating member for regulating a distance between the image sensor and the transparent plate, wherein the regulating member slides on the surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original when the image reading unit moves,

wherein a moving direction end of the support means member is provided with a cutout for preventing the support means from coming into contact with the image reading unit so the sliding of the regulating member with respect to the transparent plate is not prevented when the image reading unit moves outwardly beyond to the end portion of the original resting means transparent plate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 2  
1, wherein the regulating ~~means~~ member is provided outside a readable region of the image  
~~reading means~~ sensor in a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the image  
reading unit.

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5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,  
wherein the ~~original resting means~~ transparent plate is provided with a glass sheet on which  
the original is to be rested, and wherein the support ~~means~~ member supports an end portion  
of the glass sheet.

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6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
~~original resting means for resting~~ a transparent plate for supporting an  
original thereon;  
a support ~~means~~ member for supporting an end portion of a surface of the  
~~original resting means~~ transparent plate opposite to the original; and  
a movable image reading unit for reading image information of the original,  
the image reading unit including an image sensor for reading image information of the  
original and a regulating member for regulating a distance between the image sensor and  
the transparent plate, wherein the regulating member slides on the surface of the  
transparent plate opposite to the original when the image reading unit moves.

wherein a moving direction end of the support means member is provided with a cutout ~~for preventing the support means from coming into contact with the image reading unit~~ so the sliding of the regulating member with respect to the transparent plate is not prevented when the image reading unit moves ~~outwardly beyond~~ to the end portion of the original resting means transparent plate.

A1 [ 7. (Cancelled) ✓

8. (Cancelled) ✓

5  
9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7  
4  
6, wherein the regulating means member is provided outside a readable region of the image reading means sensor in a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the image reading unit.

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10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4  
6, wherein the ~~original resting means~~ transparent plate is provided with a glass sheet on which the original is to be rested, and wherein the support means member supports an end portion of the glass sheet.

7  
~~11.~~ (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent plate is a flow reading glass sheet, and the image sensor reads image information of the original while the original is moved in contact with the transparent plate.

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12. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim ~~6~~<sup>4</sup>, wherein the transparent plate is a flow reading glass sheet, and the image sensor reads image information of the original while the original is moved in contact with the transparent plate.

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